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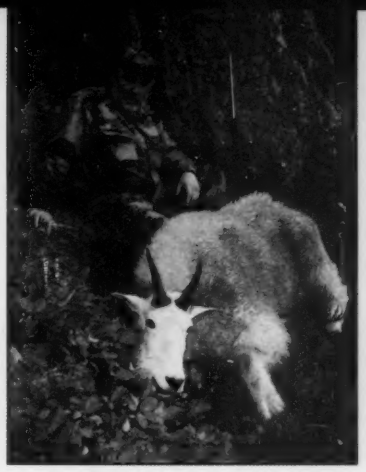
velocity, more energy downrange and, of course, a flatter trajectory. Another thing that a polymer tip does is to maintain a constant shape from bullet to bullet. Lead-tipped bullets become deformed in use and that introduces a variation in the ballistic coefficient. That can lead to poor accuracy at long range, usually manifesting itself as vertical stringing. The plastic in a tipped bullet is not malleable, so it will not deform permanently under normal conditions, which means each and every bullet is shaped the same for consistency in the B.C. and better accuracy.

The polymer tip also aids in low-velocity, long-range expansion. It helps at high velocity as well, but that's redundant as high-velocity impacts are usually pretty positive in initiating expansion. But at long range, where velocity has dropped off, some bullets can fail to expand at times. The tip acts like a wedge on contact to force the expansion to begin. I recently was questioned about how a softer plastic can wedge open harder metal. It's simple, at the impact velocity the plastic is moving so fast that it almost acts like a solid. Take for example, water; at low speeds it simply moves out of the way, but drive it fast enough and it will cut steel. It's the same concept with the tip, which even at "low velocity" is still going to be impacting at a very high speed. The plastic tip is rapidly forced back into the nose of the bullet and the easiest thing for the bullet to do is to expand.

Another reason a tipped bullet expands better at long range is because to fit a polymer tip into the bullet requires a relatively large hollow point. It may be filled with the stem of the plastic tip, but it's still a hollow point. This thins the metal at the tip of the bullet and makes it easier to initiate expansion as the tip is forced out and back. The result is a bullet with a lower impact threshold for positive expansion. The trick is to make sure it doesn't result in a fragile bullet that comes apart like a varmint bullet. That's where Federal's engineers created a balance of design and materials that make this bullet work so well under so many different conditions.



The author field tested the new bullet on mountain goat with Collingwood Brothers Guides and Outfitters in British Columbia. Fired from a Kimber Montana in .300 Win. Mag., the 180-gr. Trophy Tip anchored this goat at 260 yds.

By preprogramming the expansion and using both bonding and the latest engineering technology on the jacket design, Federal is able to create a bullet that will hold together with a high-velocity impact. The polymer tip and the advanced engineering have also lowered the impact velocity threshold for ensured expansion. The bullet is accurate and will be priced very competitively, well below the cost of some other "super bullets."

Have Federal's engineers found the "Holy Grail"—the perfect hunting bullet? Let's hope not, because that will cause all further searching to end. But, for now, I think they are leading the pack. This bullet may well be the best all-around big-game hunting bullet on the market today. Only time and a few hunting seasons will tell us for sure, but my money is betting the Trophy Tip is a winner.

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